REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this amendment, Applicants have cancelled claim 14.

Allowance of Claims

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of pending claims 1-13. The Examiner has objected to claim 14 as containing non-elected subject matter. Applicants have herein cancelled claim 14 without prejudice, thus mooting the objection.

Applicants assume that the Examiner, in indicating the allowability of claims 1-13, has searched the entire subject matter of the pending claims, including non-elected species, as is required under proper examining procedure. "[S]hould no prior art be found that anticipates or renders obvious the elected species, the search of the Markush-type claim will be extended." M.P.E.P. § 803.02. If Applicants' assumption is incorrect, Applicants request the Examiner search the full scope of the claims or contact the undersigned at 202-408-4173.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-13 in condition for allowance. This Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

FINNEGAN HENDERSON FARABOW GARRETT & DUNNERLL

1300 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202.408.4000 Fax 202.408.4400 www.finnegan.com

U.S. Application No. 09/886,044 Attorney Docket No. 02481.1744-01000

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 20, 2004

Anthony C. Tridico

Reg. No. 45,958

FINNEGAN HENDERSON FARABOW GARRETT & DUNNER LLP

1300 l Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202.408.4000 Fax 202.408.4400 www.finnegan.com